

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 00346 071032Z
ACTION PM-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 346

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, RP, US
SUBJECT: MARCOS-WEISNER MEETING JANUARY 7

1. DURING COURSE OF NEW YEARS RECEPTION MORNING JANUARY 7, PRESIDENT MARCOS PULLED ME ASIDE TO DISCUSS MATTERS WHICH HE WISHED TO RAISE WITH ADMIRAL WEISNER, WHO IS CALLING ON HIM LATER THAT MORNING.
2. MARCOS ASKED FIRST WHETHER I THOUGHT THERE WAS ANYTHING WE COULD DO TO KEEP UP SOME PROGRESS IN MILITARY BASES TALKS. I SAID THAT I THOUGHT HIS RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS REPRESENTED THE REALITY THAT MATTERS WOULD HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL CARTER ADMINISTRATION CAN EXAMINE SITUATION.
3. MARCOS ACCEPTED THAT AS FAR AS "GOVERNMENT LEVEL" TALKS WERE CONCERNED, BUT WONDERED WHETHER "AT MILITARY LEVEL," OUR TWO SIDES COULD CONTINUE SOME DIALOGUE. I SAID THAT MOST OUTSTANDING MATTERS AFFECTING OUR MILITARY MEN REQUIRED
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POLICY GUIDANCE AT GOVERNMENT LEVEL AND I DOUBTED THERE WAS MUCH THAT COULD BE EFFECTEVELY RESOLVED.

4. MARCOS MULLED THAT AWHILE AND THEN REFERRED TO TWO MATTERS WHICH HAD BEEN RAISED IN MUTUAL DEFENSE BOARD MEETING. ONE CONCERNED START & STRIPES PUBLICATION AND THE OTHER CONCERNED BLACK MARKET SMUGGLING. I SAID BOTH

HAD BEEN ADDRESSED BY OUR MILITARY AND I THOUGHT MARCOS WOULD FIND REPLIES SATISFACTORY. ON SMUGGLING, I SAID WE WERE RECOMMENDING THAT PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKE TO CONFISCATE ANY SMUGGLED GOODS FOUND OUTSIDE THE BASES. MARCOS GAVE ONE OF HIS MASTERFUL NON-COMMITTAL AGREEMENTS.

5. WHEN MARCOS SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED ADMIRAL WEISNER (AFTER A NINETY MINUTE DELAY CAUSED BY A JAMMED SCHEDULE THAT INVOLVED SWEARING-IN SEVERAL JUDGES) HE RAISED THESE SAME THREE MATTERS RATHER GENTLY. ON THE TWO ISSUES RAISED IN MDB, ADMIRAL WEISNER SAID HE WOULD HAND OVER LETTERS TO GENERAL ESPINO TOMORROW. ON THE QUESTION OF MILITARY LEVEL DISCUSSIONS ON BASES ISSUES, MARCOS LEFT THE MATTER WITH GENERAL ESPINO TO PURSUE.

6. IT WAS CLEAR FROM ESPINO'S EXPRESSION THAT HE PERSONALLY HAS NO RPT NO DESIRE TO DISCUSS MILITARY BASES MATTERS. HE AND ADMIRAL WEISNER WILL MEET TOMORROW AND THEIR MUTUAL INCLINATIONS WILL BE TO FINESSE THIS SUBJECT. HOWEVER, ESPINO MAY FIND HIMSELF UNDER SOME INSTRUCTIONS FROM MARCOS TO PURSUE IT FURTHER. ADMIRAL WEISNER WILL PRESUMABLY BE ABLE TO REPORT HIS IMPRESSIONS AFTER TOMORROW'S MEETING WITH ESPINO.

7. COMMENT: I AM A BIT PERPLEXED BY THIS APPARENT SHIFT IN THE TACTICS MARCOS HAS PURSUED. IT COULD, PERHAPS, REPRESENT AN EFFORT TO KEEP A BLOW-TORCH ON THE BASES ISSUES SO THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT LET THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MATTER SLIDE INDEFINITELY.
SULLIVAN

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